

Serial No.: 09/220,830
Attorney Docket No.: E-826

Patent

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 1-9 were pending in the Application. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the enclosed remarks. Accordingly, claims 1-9 will remain pending in the application.

2. Rejections under 35 USC § 103

In section 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 5, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,812,400 to Eddy, et al. ("Eddy '400") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,812,965 to Taylor ("Taylor '965").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The Examiner has not put forth a prima facie case of obviousness. The cited references do not alone or in any proper combination teach or fairly suggest the invention as presently claimed in claims 1, 8 and 9.

For example, the code is associated with the postage metering system. The challenge card has the code therein and the challenge card is sent to the specific location of the postage metering system using a carrier service. In the invention as presently claimed, a user could not use a duplicate indicium card received at another location because the code is associated with the postage metering system and it is on the challenge card that is sent to the specific location. Accordingly, applicants submit that claims 1, 8 and 9 are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons described above.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and is patentable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 5, 8 and 9.

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In section 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 2-4 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,812,400 to Eddy, et al. ("Eddy '400") in view of Taylor (GB 2 213 302) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,731,980 to Dolan, et al. ("Dolan '980").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The Examiner has not put forth a prima facie case of obviousness. The cited references do not alone or in any proper combination teach or fairly suggest the invention as presently claimed in claims 2-4 and 6-7.

Claims 2-4 and 6-7 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-4 and 6-7 are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons stated above with reference to the rejection of claim 1.

Furthermore, referring to claims 2-4, the cited references do not teach or suggest cryptographically securing the code to ensure that the actual card sent to the user was received.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 2-4 and 6-7.

Applicants submit that the invention as presently claimed in claims 1-9 is patentable over the cited references and in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request early and favorable consideration of the invention as presently claimed in claims 1-9.

3. Conclusion Of Remarks

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

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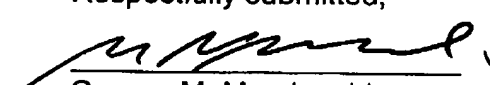
If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

4. Authorization

No fee is believed due with this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. E-826.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. E-826.

Respectfully submitted,


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